

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Training and staff development

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI-10

1. We were advised during Additional Estimates in 2008 that ANSTO's Nuclear Technician Training Program had been cancelled due to inflationary pressures. As those pressures are no longer with us is there any reasons why funding for the program will not be restored?
2. Why does ANSTO find this program so important?

ANSWER

1. As part of the 2007-2008 Additional Estimates process, ANSTO's appropriation was reduced by \$6 million, an amount equivalent to the first intake cost of the *Nuclear Futures graduate program*. Given its existing contractual commitments, ANSTO is still meeting the ongoing costs for the 2008 intake and is sourcing its funds by reductions in other ANSTO activities.
2. Currently, Australia does not have a dedicated nuclear engineering or nuclear science university course on offer. In order to secure ANSTO's ability to deliver the benefits of nuclear science and technology to the Australian community, it is important that we provide the necessary training to equip scientists with the skills to work in this specialised area. Many government agencies run similar graduate programs.